

Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC)

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

JUNE 08 WILDFIRES SITUATION REPORT # 5 20 June 2008, 1500 Hours

New Information in Bold Italic Type

SUMMARY

There are currently **five** confirmed wildfires in VA. ***Stone Coal Fire, Caldwell Mountain, George Washington & Jefferson National Forest, in Botetourt County discovered on 18 June caused by lightning is not contained;*** Poor Mountain Fire in Montgomery County was threatening multiple communication tower sites on 12 June is now 100% contained; South 1 Fire, Great Dismal Swamp Wildlife Refuge Fire in cities of Suffolk and Chesapeake is 23% contained; Hot Fire, Richardson Knob, George Washington & Jefferson National Forest, in Warren and Shenandoah Counties is 100% contained; Landfill Fire, North Mountain, George Washington & Jefferson National Forest, in Botetourt County is small and contained. VA Department of Forestry and US Forest Service are coordinating aerial observations flights of mountain ranges in Virginia.

EXECUTIVE ACTION

EOC Activation: The Virginia Emergency Operations Center is at Routine Operations with normal staffing. Planning Section is active providing a coordinated Commonwealth picture of the situation. Incident Management Cadre is on alert.

WEATHER FORECAST

Friday, 20 June: Partly to mostly cloudy; chance of showers and thunderstorms developing in the afternoon and evening; some storms could produce gusty winds and small hail; daytime highs mid 70's to high 80's with overnight lows mid 50's to mid 60's; west winds 5-10 MPH.

Saturday, 21 June: Mostly cloudy; chance of showers and thunderstorms; some storms could be strong to severe; daytime highs low 70's to mid 80's with overnight lows upper 50's to upper 60's; west-southwest winds 5-10 MPH.

OPERATIONS SECTION

ESF 2 – Communications: VDEM fulfilled request from Montgomery County Emergency Management for Local Support Services Trailer housed in VDEM Region 6 deployed to serve as Incident Command Post through Tuesday, 17 June. VDEM Region 6 Coordinator delivered and set the trailer up for operations on 13 June. ***Local Support Services Trailer was demobilized on 20 June.***

VDEM fulfilled request from US Department of Interior through Suffolk Emergency Management on 15 June for deployment of Sprint ERT for communications and cellular telephone support. Sprint ERT arrived on scene 0015 hours, 16 June.

VDEM fulfilled request from US Department of Interior through Suffolk Emergency Management on 16 June for deployment of Sprint IP Trailer for data support. Sprint IP Trailer arrived on scene and operational at 2145 hours, 16 June.

ESF 4 – Firefighting: VA Department of Forestry (VDOF) reports that the Poor Mountain Wildfire in Montgomery County burned approximately 250 acres and is projected to burn approximately 890 acres after burning operations are completed. VDOF reduced staffing to approximately 20 personnel. ***All local resources demobilized on 19 June.*** Lightning is the probable cause of the fire. The fire is 100% contained with 100% control projected ***by Monday, 23 June.*** Rain has

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aided fire suppression on the low intensity fire and it has increased the safety factor and impacted burn out operations. Burn out operations have been delayed and will be conducted once weather permits.

US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) reports the South 1 Fire, Great Dismal Swamp Wildlife Refuge in Suffolk and Chesapeake, Virginia, along the VA/NC border, is estimated to have burned **2,800** acres. A piece of construction equipment that caught fire is the probable cause of the fire. Area communities are affected by smoke, but no homes are in danger at this time. The fire is being managed by a Southern Area Type 2 Incident Management Team. The fire is 23% contained and 1 July is the projected date for containment. There are about **414 personnel** on site to include 6 from the VA Department of Forestry along with personnel and resources from Nature Conservancy, National Park Service, US Forest Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, VA Department of Emergency Management, NC Department of Forest Resources, City of Chesapeake Fire Department and City of Suffolk Fire Department. **Ground resources include 11 hand crews, 14 engine crews and 5 bulldozers supported by 5 helicopters and 2 fixed wing aircraft.** A temporary flight restriction **has been increased** up to **4,000** feet above the fire. A second fire, 35 acres, caused by thunderstorms on 16 June, was located outside containment lines and 100% contained on 17 June. **Crews continue to reinforce containment lines and have conducted some burnout operations on the east flank.**

US Forest Service (USFS) reports the Hot Fire, Richardson Knob, George Washington and Jefferson National Forest in Warren and Shenandoah Counties is located on the northern end of Massanutten Mountain in rough, steep, rocky terrain and difficult to access which hampered containment efforts. The fire is estimated to have burned 200 acres is 100% contained **and under control; recent rains assisted with fire suppression and there is currently minimal fire activity; staffing was reduced from 25 to 15 personnel to monitor the fire and conduct mop up operations.** Lightning is the probable cause of the fire.

US Forest Service (USFS) reported a 10 acre fire burning on North Mountain in Botetourt County on 14 June. USFS is managing the fire and has named it the Landfill Fire and indicated it was probably caused by a lightning strike. USFS reported actual area burned is 4 acres in George Washington and Jefferson National Forest. Fire is located in steep, rough terrain and recent rains have caused the fire to exhibit minimal fire activity. **Fire is 100% contained and being monitored by 10 person USFS crew.**

US Forest Service (USFS) confirmed on 18 June a wildfire on Caldwell Mountain, George Washington and Jefferson National Forest, in Botetourt County and named it the Stone Coal Fire. Probable cause was a lightning strike. The initial estimated size of 25 acres was increased to 300 acres once crews were able to approach the fire in steep, rough terrain. USFS has approximately 35 personnel on the scene to include 1-20 man hand crew and 2 bulldozers supported by 1 helicopter. Crews are working to access the fire and establish containment lines. Fire will probably continue to burn over the next several days until there is significant precipitation.

ESF 5 – Emergency Management: VDEM has created an event in WebEOC “2008-06 Wildfires”, and the Incident Management Cadre has been alerted. VEOC is monitoring WebEOC, maintaining situational awareness, monitoring and coordinating request for wildfire assistance with VA Department of Forestry and prepared to assist.

Local Support Services: VDEM Region 6 Coordinator deployed the Local Support Services Trailer housed in Region 6 to Montgomery County **and picked it up on Friday, 20 June.**

PLANNING SECTION

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Situation/Documentation Unit: Monitoring situation and issuing daily SPOT reports and situation reports on Monday, Wednesday and Friday's. ***Next Situation Report will be issued Monday, 23 June 2008.***

LOCAL ACTIVITIES

Montgomery County declared a local emergency on 12 June at approximately 1050 hrs and has established the Incident Command Post at Eastern Montgomery High School in the Elliston section of the county. ***Montgomery County rescinded the local emergency declaration.***

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